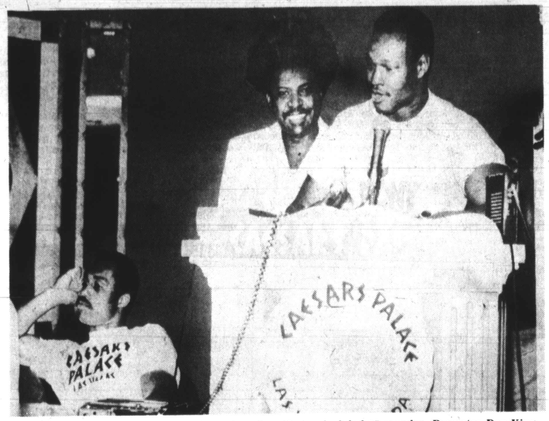

CAESARS BOREDOM — Unfazed, almost bored, Ken Norton (left) sits and waits for the rostrum as Larry Holmes (right) tells Caesars Palace news conference he hopes Norton doesn't chicken out of their scheduled 15-rounder. Promoter Don King, the one with the hair, appears amused. Norton defends his WBC heavyweight title against Holmes Friday night.

1500 at Towson State for Special Olympics

An estimated 1500 mentally retarded children and adults will converge on Towson State University's athletic field Friday, for the beginning of the Maryland Special Olympics track and field meet.

The two-day competitions will get under way with team matches in volleyball, basketball and swimming.

Saturday's track and field events will begin after the 9 a.m. opening ceremonies and the "Parade of Athletes" down Towsontowne Boulevard.

Events include the 50 and 220 yard dashes; 440 run and 440 relay; the standing broad jump and softball throw for distance. The participants come from Baltimore City and 23 Maryland counties and range in age from 8 years to adult.

The Baltimore Colts' Ted Marchibroda is this year's honorary coach of the meet. State comptroller, Louis Goldstein, will preside as honorary chairman again this year.

The torch bearer for this year's meet will be 22-year-old Tommy Fisher of the Wicomico Teen-Adult Center in Sharptown, Md.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" will be given by Jean Dill, 30 years old, from the Appalachian Adult Activities Center in Oakland, Md.

The Maryland Special Olympics, which began in 1968 with 300 children has developed into a year-round program of recreation serving over 8,000 children and adults.

Programs include competition in basketball, floor hockey, ice skating and bowling.

Special Olympics list wheelchairs

Over forty mentally - handicapped, wheelchair - bound individuals from across the state will compete in the wheelchair races at the ninth annual Maryland Special Olympics State Games at Towson State University - Burdick Field, Saturday.

"We have placed special emphasis this year on recruiting those retarded persons who also have extreme physical limitations to participate," stated MSO spokesman Michael Marqua. "This will be the largest competition of wheelchair - bound persons in our history."

The Maryland Special Olympics is free, and the public is invited to attend.

Hub fight next for Sugar Ray

Olympic gold medalist Sugar Ray Leonard will meet Dick Eklund of Lowell, Mass., July 18, in a 10 - round match at the Hynes Auditorium, Boston.

Leonard, 11-0 since turning pro, was in Boston Tuesday to sign for the welterweight fight. Eklund is 14-1 since winning three Golden Gloves titles and two U.S. junior championships.

Eklund, 21, is managed by his mother, Alice Ward.

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MSA tennis ace headed for Eastern Michigan

Indications are strong that young Eric Hill will enroll at Eastern Michigan University in the fall. And if he does, it will serve as a plus for the Ypsilanti school's tennis program.

Young Hill, being graduated by Lake Clifton High School Friday night at the Civic Center, carries with him the last two championships contested for in the Maryland Scholastic Association.

He defeated Mark Goins of Walbrook High in straight sets, 6-1, 6-1 last week at Clifton Park. It was his second straight MSA title.

The victory over Goins marked Eric's 17th in 18 matches. He had won 15 regular season events, losing only in a dual meet with Cardinal Gibbons.

Impressed by his performance over the last two years, several colleges had approached the youngster with scholarship offers.

After reducing the number to three, Eric and his older brother, Lance, chose Eastern Michigan over Old Dominion (Va.) and Elizabeth City (N.C.) State.

Lance, also an outstanding athlete at Lake Clifton, is a year older at 18 — one year older exactly, both having been born on the same date, Dec. 30.

At Eastern Michigan, the two young Baltimoreans will renew acquaintance with an old friend, Ray Scott, whom they met when Ray was a member of the Baltimore Bullets pro basketball team.

Scott is now athletic director at the Ypsilanti school . . . LACY.

Early confrontation results in shoving

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — Ken Norton, World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, was shoved by challenger Larry Holmes during a brief melee Tuesday at Caesar's Palace Hotel.

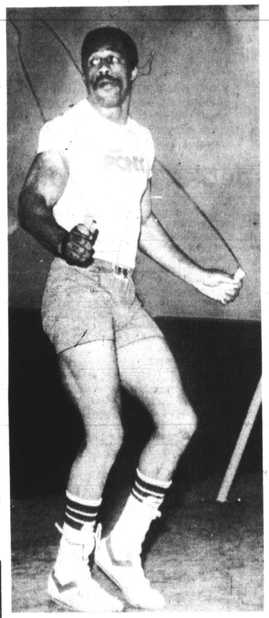
Norton, who makes the first defense of his half of the split title Friday night against the undefeated Holmes, was jumping rope in the hotel's sports pavilion when Holmes left his seat in the stands and came down to the floor. Two of Norton's security guards tried to intervene but the 34 - year - old ex - marine told them not to stop Holmes.

When they were face to face, Holmes smilled and said "Don't you get in my face, Holmes smiled and hands on Norton's chest.

Norton, caught off - guard, was pushed backwards and men from both camps broke it up.

Bill Slayton, Norton's trainer, suffered a small cut on his right hand while wrestling with Holmes' manager - trainer Richie Giachetti.

Norton, 40 - 4 with 32 KOs, and Holmes, 27 - 0 with 19 KOs weighed in for their scheduled 15 - rounder Thursday at noon.



BACK AT WORK — After a press conference in which he was verbally abused by challenger Larry Holmes, WBC champion Ken Norton wasted no time in resuming training. The rope-skipping, 33-year-old veteran defends Friday at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas.

Help sought for net program

The Junior League of Baltimore, Inc. and the Department of Recreation will join hands again this summer to sponsor the Druid Hill Park tennis program.

The league, comprised of energetic women volunteers, is seeking support from the community in its effort to promote tennis among local youngsters.

Children who participate in the program will be provided with racquets and balls which in the past have been donated by tennis enthusiasts from all over Baltimore.

Anyone with new or used tennis racquets and balls who would be willing to donate them to this program may do so by leaving them at any of the following locations:

Junior League Headquarters, 4803 Roland Ave.; Edge Set, Padonia Village Shopping Center or Hunt Valley Country Club.

Also, the Edge Set, in support of Druid Hill Tennis, will give a $10 discount towards the purchase of a new racquet to anyone who brings a used racquet to the store.

The program is for children ages 9-17 and will run June 26-August 4 at the Lakeside courts in Druid Hill Park.

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TOWSON: 715 YORK ROAD, South of Beltway Exit 26, 828-4000, Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 7:30 A.M.-6 P.M., Thurs. 7:30 A.M.-8 P.M., Sat. 7:30 A.M.-5 P.M.
NORTHWEST: 6421 REISTERSTOWN RD., 764-2624, Opp. Reisterstown Plaza, Daily 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M., Sat. 7:30 A.M.-5 P.M.
HAMILTON: 4379 HARFORD ROAD, 426-2220, Daily 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M., Sat. 7:30 A.M.-5 P.M.
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MVP to Japan

UPI telephoto

Members of the national champion Kentucky basketball team left Saturday for a 2-week tour of Japan.

Of the four seniors in the Wildcat lineup for the NCAA championship game, only Jack Givens accepted coach Joe Hall's invitation to go. Givens was the MVP of the tournament last April.

LOCKER - ROOM ECSTACY — Pandemonium broke loose in the Washington Bullets' dressing room as Wednesday night the players savored their 105-99 victory over Seattle for the NBA championship. Elvin Hayes (left panel) gets chance to show off the coveted trophy while proclaiming the team's No. 1 status. Talented reserves Greg Ballard and Larry Wright (right panel) go into clutching act as guard playmaker - guard Tom Henderson (14) moves away to join another embraceable teammate or two. Bullets outlasted Supersonics in best - of - seven series, 4-3, capturing clincher on enemy floor.

The first organization of black workers was the American League of Colored Laborers in New York City in 1850, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's publication Labor Firsts in America.

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Air of forgiveness reigns throughout Bulletland

By Sam Lacy

All was forgiven Wednesday night.

When the Washington Bullets turned back the Seattle SuperSonics in the latters' own backyard, 105-99, forgiveness seeped into the hearts of Bullet fans from Chevy Chase to Anacostia and beyond.

Owner Abe Pollin and general manager Bob Ferry were forgiven for bringing in Dick Motta to replace the popular K. C. Jones as head coach two years earlier.

Motta was forgiven for having seemingly forgotten his bench.

Elvin Hayes and Bob Dandridge were forgiven for disruptive statements attributed to them after each defeat in the best-of-seven series.

Wes Unseld, who bore the brunt of the Hayes-Dandridge criticism, bestowed forgiveness on them, and was himself forgiven to the point that the sportswriters, his other critics, voted him the most valuable player award.

In addition to a trophy and a bonus check, Unseld will receive a 1978 automobile in New York this weekend, the annual award by Sport Magazine.

The victory was the culmination of an assortment of frustrations for Bullets' faithful.

They had suffered through two previous losses in the final showdown, in 1971 to Milwaukee and in 1975 to Golden State — both times blown out in four straight.

Moreover, they had inherited a "choke" tag, one which insisted they couldn't win the big games.

For Sonics' coach Lenny Wilkens, it was yet another disappointment.

The slender, former all-pro guard was surprised along with thousands of other basketball fans when he was bypassed for coach-of-the-year honors, a choice that went to Atlanta's Hubie Brown.

On Wednesday, he was hoping for the crowning reward after having brought his no-name Sonics from an horrendous 5-17, start to the brink of the game's greatest triumph.

Wilkens came out of a glum SuperSonic dressing room to say he was still proud of his players.

"I told them I was proud of them," said Lenny. "I told them they had a real fine year and came through a lot of adversity. I don't know of any other team that has come from being down 5-17 and gone on to play for the championship."

Wilkens still said he felt Seattle could win it when it closed within four points with 1:52 left in the game.

"But then Mitch Kupchak made that big three-point play and it was almost impossible after that," he said.

Wilkens referred to Kupchak picking up a loose ball in a scramble and being fouled by the Sonics' Marvin Webster as his shot rolled in. Kupchak sank the free throw and restored a seven-point lead at 101-94.

In the Bullets' locker room, Hayes, who had fouled out with about eight minutes to go, agreed that Kupchak had recorded the big play of the game.

"That's what broke their backs," Hayes said.

The championship netted the two teams $250,000. Washington's winners collected $150,000 and brought its overall playoff total to $282,500.

The Sonics totalled $227,500.

Here is TGIO

A current movie, "Thank God It's Friday" appeared first in book form and was titled "TGIF."

As of Thursday morning, basketball fans were breathing their own "TGIO," meaning thank God it's over."

Wednesday night's Washington Bullets' victory over the Seattle SuperSonics, finally — on June 7 — put an end to a sports "season" that began away back eight months ago, in October.

If anyone would like to know, here is the way the wind-down wnet:

MAY 21 — Seattle 106, Washington 102
MAY 25 — Washington 106, Seattle 98
MAY 28 — Seattle 93, Washington 92
MAY 30 — Washington 120, Seattle 116 (OT)
JUNE 2 — Seattle 98, Washington 94
JUNE 4 — Washington 117, Seattle 82
JUNE 7 — Washington 105, Seattle 99

Elder, 4 others Open qualifiers

Lee Elder of Washington, and four other black entries Monday, passed qualifiying rounds for the U.S. Open golf tournament, scheduled next week (15 - 18) at Denver.

Elder, qualifying for his 11th Open, led the field at Bethesda Country Club with a 1 - over par 141.

Pete Brown's 144 at Charlotte, N.C.; Charlie Epps' 139 and Nate Starks' 141 at Arlington, Texas, and Charley Sifford's 142 at Sharon Center, Ohio also made the field.

Brown is from Los Angeles, Epps is from Houston, Starks from St. Petersburg, Fla., and Sifford makes his home in Cleveland.

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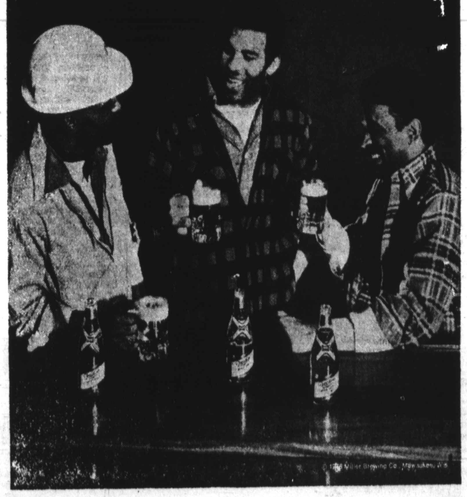

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